

NICHOLAS TRUTANICH
United States Attorney
District of Nevada
Nevada Bar Number 13644
DAVID L. JAFFE
Chief, Organized Crime & Gang Section
U.S. Department of Justice
JOHN S. HAN
Trial Attorney
Organized Crime & Gang Section
U.S. Department of Justice
501 Las Vegas Boulevard South
Suite 1100
Las Vegas, Nevada 89101
702-388-6336
john.han2@usdoj.gov
Counsel for the United States

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
DISTRICT OF NEVADA**

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,

Plaintiff,

vs.

[1] JOSE LUIS REYNALDO REYES- CASTILLO,
A.k.a. "Molesto,"

[2] MIGUEL TORRES-ESCOBAR,
A.k.a. "Chamilo,"

[3] DAVID ARTURO PEREZ-MANCHAME,
A.k.a. "Walter Melendez,"
A.k.a. "Herbi,"

Defendants.

CRIMINAL INDICTMENT

Case No.: 2:19-cr- 103

VIOLATIONS:

18 U.S.C. § 1959 (a)(1):
Murder in Aid of Racketeering;
18 U.S.C. § 924(c):
Using, Carrying, Discharging a Firearm
During a Crime of Violence;
18 U.S.C. § 924(j):
Causing Death Through the Use of a
Firearm;
18 U.S.C. § 2:
Aiding and Abetting.

THE GRAND JURY CHARGES THAT:

**COUNT ONE
(Murder In Aid of Racketeering)**

The Enterprise

1. At all times relevant to this Indictment,

[1] JOSE LUIS REYNALDO REYES-CASTILLO, A.k.a. "Molesto";
[2] MIGUEL TORRES-ESCOBAR, A.k.a. "Chamilo"; and
[3] DAVID ARTURO PEREZ-MANCHAME,
A.k.a. "Walter Melendez," A.k.a. "Herbi,"

defendants herein, and other persons known and unknown to the Grand Jury, were members and associates of the Mara Salvatrucha street gang, otherwise known as MS-13 (hereinafter referred to as "MS-13"), operating in and around Las Vegas, Nevada. MS-13, including its leaders, members, and associates, constituted an "enterprise," as defined in Title 18, United States Code, Sections 1959(b)(2) and 1961(4), namely, a group of individuals associated in fact, although not a legal entity, which was engaged in, and the activities of which affected, interstate and foreign commerce. This enterprise constituted an ongoing organization whose members functioned as a continuing unit for a common purpose of achieving the objectives of the enterprise.

2. At all times relevant to this Indictment, MS-13 operated within the District of Nevada and elsewhere.

3. MS-13 was formed in Los Angeles, California in the mid-1980s by immigrants or descendants of immigrants from El Salvador. "Mara" is a term used in El Salvador for "gang." "Salva" refers to El Salvador. While MS-13 originated in Los Angeles, over the years, MS-13 spread as its members were deported to El Salvador and because its members traveled to other locations in the United States, including Las Vegas, Nevada, and abroad. As a result, MS-13 operates as a national and international criminal organization with more than ten thousand members regularly conducting gang activities in at least ten states and Washington, D.C., and with thousands more conducting gang activities in Central America and Mexico. MS-13 actively recruits

1 members, including juveniles, from communities with a large number of immigrants from El
2 Salvador.

3 4. MS-13 is largely composed of persons from Central America, including El Salvador,
4 Honduras, and Guatemala. Although each MS-13 locale has a common origin, MS-13 in Las Vegas
5 operated in different ways from fellow gang members in El Salvador, Honduras, and Guatemala,
6 and the other states within the United States.

7 **Structure of the Enterprise**

8 5. MS-13 was organized by subsets known as "cliques" including, but not limited to,
9 "Parkview," "Hollywood," and "Fulton." Each clique typically had one or more leaders,
10 commonly referred to as "shot callers."

11 6. In Nevada and California, the Parkview clique of MS-13 operated in the following
12 separate geographical sectors: Las Vegas, Nevada sector, Mendota, California sector, and Los
13 Angeles, California sector. Each sector typically had one or more leaders, who were responsible
14 for, among other things, managing the narcotics trafficking operation in the sector's territory,
15 collecting money from clique members to finance gang activities and crimes, directing day-to-day
16 management of the sector, recruiting new members, enforcing MS-13 rules and codes of conduct,
17 ordering and planning acts of violence against suspected rival gang members, and representing their
18 respective sectors in general clique coordination meetings.

19 7. The organizational hierarchy of the Parkview MS-13 clique in Nevada and California
20 comprised of the following ranks in ascending order of importance: "Paro," "Observacion,"
21 "Chequeo," "Homeboy," and "Palabrero." "Paro" is the lowest rank and refers to a member who
22 did favors for the gang and contributed money to further gang activities. "Observacion" is above
23 "Paro" and describes a member who was trusted to serve as a bodyguard and lookout for the gang
24

1 and its leaders. Above "Observacion," "Chequeo" is a member who has demonstrated loyalty to
2 the gang, often times by killing rival gang members. Above "Chequeo," "Homeboy" is a fully
3 initiated gang member who has undergone a "jumping in" ceremony. This ritual ceremony involves
4 passing a "beating test" in which the prospective MS-13 member must survive a group of existing
5 MS-13 "Homeboys" beating and kicking him for 13 seconds. Once jumped in, an MS-13 member
6 is expected to participate fully in the MS-13's criminal activities. Above "Homeboy," "Palabrero"
7 is a leader or "shot caller" of the clique who makes ultimate decisions on all gang matters affecting
8 the clique. In some instances, an MS-13 member may be promoted to higher rank by skipping an
9 intermediate rank based on the member's proven record of committing violence on behalf of the
10 gang.

11 8. MS-13 members meet on a regular basis to, among other things, report on acts of
12 violence committed by their members with the goal of inciting and encouraging further violence.
13 MS-13 leaders within a clique would meet to discuss gang rules and gang business, to coordinate
14 criminal activities, to resolve problems or issues among gang members of different cliques, and to
15 unite gang members from across geographic sectors controlled by the clique.

16 9. MS-13 members sometimes signify their membership with tattoos reading "Mara
17 Salvatrucha," "MS," "MS-13," or other variations of the gang's name. MS-13 members typically
18 refer to other members by their monikers, or nicknames, and often do not know fellow gang
19 members' legal names.

20 10. MS-13 has a self-imposed code of conduct, which is enforced to maintain compliance
21 among its members. MS-13 enforces its rules and promotes discipline among its members by
22 threatening and committing acts of violence against members who break the rules. For example, a
23 MS-13 member
24

1 who has broken the rules of the gang may be subjected to a beating for 13 seconds by several fellow
2 MS-13 members.

3 11. MS-13 has zero tolerance for members and associates who cooperate with law
4 enforcement. Once MS-13 has evidence that someone has cooperated with law enforcement, MS-
5 13 targets that person for death, which means that the person who is allegedly or actually
6 cooperating with law enforcement is to be killed on sight.

7 12. MS-13 members engaged in, among other things, numerous acts of violence and other
8 crimes, including, but not limited to, murder, attempted murder, assault with dangerous weapons,
9 kidnapping, robbery, conspiracy to traffic in narcotics, narcotics trafficking, possessing firearms
10 while prohibited from doing so, breaking into houses and stealing firearms, jewelry, cash, and other
11 items of value, and selling stolen goods and fraudulent identification cards and documents.

12 13. MS-13 cliques collected money from their members for the benefit of, and to be
13 provided to, families of deceased clique members in El Salvador as well as incarcerated members.
14 MS-13 also collected money from its members and used money derived from the sale of narcotics,
15 stolen goods, fraudulent identification cards and documents, and other crimes to carry on gang
16 activities.

17 14. MS-13 gang members routinely communicated about gang activities with gang
18 members in other states using cellular telephones and social media applications via the Internet.
19 MS-13 members also used interstate and international money wire transfers to conduct and promote
20 gang activities.

21 15. MS-13 engaged in acts of violence against innocent citizens and rival gang members.
22 Participation in criminal activity by an MS-13 member, particularly violent acts directed at rival
23 gangs or as directed by the gang leadership, increased the respect accorded to that member, resulted
24

1 in that member maintaining or increasing his position in the gang, and could have resulted in a
2 promotion to higher rank in the organizational hierarchy. Additionally, commission of violent acts
3 by MS-13 members enhanced the gang's overall reputation for violence in the community, resulting
4 in the intimidation of citizens and witnesses in MS-13's territory.

5 **Purposes of the Enterprise**

6 16. At all times relevant to this Indictment, the purposes of the MS-13 enterprise
7 included, but were not limited to, the following:

8 a. Enriching members and associates of the enterprise through criminal
9 activities, including, but not limited to, breaking into houses and stealing firearms, jewelry, cash,
10 and other items of value, and selling narcotics, stolen goods, and fraudulent identification cards and
11 documents;

12 b. Preserving, promoting, and protecting the power, territory, and profits of the
13 enterprise through the use of intimidation, violence, including, but not limited to, murder, attempted
14 murder, assault with dangerous weapons, kidnapping, and robbery, and threats of violence;

15 c. Increasing MS-13's control and authority over its territory through threats,
16 intimidation, and acts of violence committed against rival gangs;

17 d. Promoting and enhancing the enterprise and its members' and associates'
18 activities;

19 e. Keeping victims and potential victims in fear of the enterprise and in fear of
20 its members and associates, through violence and threats of violence;

21 f. Providing financial support and information to the gang and gang members,
22 including the families of deceased gang members; and

23 g. Providing assistance to other gang members who committed crimes for and
24

1 on behalf of the gang in order to hinder, obstruct, and prevent law enforcement officers from
2 identifying the offender, apprehending the offender, and trying and punishing the offender.

3 **Manner and Means of the Enterprise**

4 17. Among the manner and means whereby members and associates of the enterprise
5 conducted and participated in the conduct of the affairs of the MS-13 enterprise were the
6 following:

7 a. To protect and expand the enterprise's power and territory, members and
8 associates of the enterprise conspired to commit, attempted, and committed, acts of violence,
9 including murder, assault with dangerous weapons, and kidnapping directed against rival gang
10 members and/or members and associates of the enterprise who have violated the rules of the
11 enterprise;

12 b. In the course of carrying out the criminal activities of the enterprise,
13 members and associates of the enterprise possessed, carried, and use dangerous weapons,
14 including firearms, machetes, and knives;

15 c. To increase the enterprise's control and authority over its territory, members
16 and associates of the enterprise promoted a climate of fear in the community through violence and
17 threats of violence;

18 d. To generate income for the enterprise, members and associates of the
19 enterprise participated in narcotics trafficking, including the sale and purchase of controlled
20 substances, robbery, breaking into houses and stealing firearms, jewelry, cash, and other items of
21 value, and selling stolen goods and fraudulent identification cards and documents;

22 e. To promote the enterprise, members and associates of the enterprise
23 frequently engaged in the aforementioned criminal activity in the presence of other MS-13 gang
24

1 members in order to enhance the status within MS-13 of those affirmatively conducting criminal
2 acts;

3 f. To ensure the success of the enterprise's criminal activities, members and
4 associates of the enterprise met with MS-13 clique members and leaders in other geographical
5 sectors to coordinate criminal ventures, obtain supplies of controlled substances, pool and share
6 monetary funds to promote gang activities, and move firearms used in murders in Las Vegas to
7 other sectors in California;

8 g. To perpetuate the enterprise, members and associates of the enterprise used
9 various techniques to avoid law enforcement detection, such as hiding firearms and other
10 weapons, destroying evidence of murders, and changing phones.

11 **Racketeering Activity**

12 18. At all times relevant to this Indictment, the above-described MS-13 enterprise,
13 through its members and associates, engaged in racketeering activity, as defined in Title 18,
14 United States Code, Sections 1959(b)(1) and 1961(1), namely, multiple acts involving murder, in
15 violation of Nevada Revised Statutes Annotated, Sections 200.010, 200.030, 193.330, 195.020,
16 199.480, and 199.490; kidnapping, in violation of Nevada Revised Statutes Annotated, Sections
17 200.310, 193.330, 195.020, 199.480, and 199.490; and robbery, in violation of Nevada Revised
18 Statutes Annotated, Sections 200.380, 193.330, 195.020, 199.480, and 199.490; and multiple
19 offenses involving the possession with intent to distribute and distribution of controlled
20 substances, in violation of Title 21, United States Code, Sections 841 and 846.

Murder in Aid of Racketeering

19. On or about January 21, 2018, in the District of Nevada, for the purpose of gaining entrance to and maintaining and increasing position in MS-13, an enterprise engaged in racketeering activity,

[1] JOSE LUIS REYNALDO REYES-CASTILLO, A.k.a. "Molesto";
[2] MIGUEL TORRES-ESCOBAR, A.k.a. "Chamilo"; and
[3] DAVID ARTURO PEREZ-MANCHAME,
A.k.a. "Walter Melendez," A.k.a. "Herbi,"

defendants herein, along with others known and unknown to the Grand Jury, while aiding and abetting each other, did knowingly and intentionally murder Arquimidez Sandoval-Martinez, in violation of Nevada Revised Statutes Annotated, Sections 200.010, 200.030, and 195.020.

In violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 1959(a)(1) and Section 2.

COUNT TWO

(Using and Carrying of Firearm During and in Relation to a Crime of Violence)

On or about January 21, 2018, in the District of Nevada,

[1] JOSE LUIS REYNALDO REYES-CASTILLO, A.k.a. "Molesto";
[2] MIGUEL TORRES-ESCOBAR, A.k.a. "Chamilo"; and
[3] DAVID ARTURO PEREZ-MANCHAME,
A.k.a. "Walter Melendez," A.k.a. "Herbi,"

defendants herein, along with others known and unknown to the Grand Jury, while aiding and abetting each other, did knowingly and intentionally use and carry a firearm during and in relation to a crime of violence for which the defendants may be prosecuted in a court of the United States, to wit: murder in aid of racketeering, as set forth in Count One of this Indictment, and in the course of such offense, discharge a firearm.

In violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 924(c)(1)(A) and Section 2.

COUNT THREE
(Causing Death Through the Use of a Firearm)

On or about January 21, 2018, in the District of Nevada,

[1] JOSE LUIS REYNALDO REYES-CASTILLO, A.k.a. "Molesto";
[2] MIGUEL TORRES-ESCOBAR, A.k.a. "Chamilo"; and
[3] DAVID ARTURO PEREZ-MANCHAME,
A.k.a. "Walter Melendez," A.k.a. "Herbi,"

defendants herein, along with others known and unknown to the Grand Jury, while aiding and abetting each other, in the course of a violation of Title 18, United States Code, 924(c), as set forth in Count Two of this Indictment, did cause the death of a person, Arquimidez Sandoval-Martinez, through the use of a firearm, which killing is a murder, as defined in Title 18, United States Code, Section 1111.

In violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 924(j) and Section 2.

NOTICE OF SPECIAL FINDINGS AS TO COUNTS ONE AND THREE

The Grand Jury incorporates by reference and re-alleges the allegations contained in Counts One and Three of this Indictment and makes the following special findings as to Counts One and Three:

[1] JOSE LUIS REYNALDO REYES-CASTILLO, A.k.a. "Molesto";
[2] MIGUEL TORRES-ESCOBAR, A.k.a. "Chamilo"; and
[3] DAVID ARTURO PEREZ-MANCHAME,
A.k.a. "Walter Melendez," A.k.a. "Herbi,"

defendants herein,

1. Were 18 years of age at the time of the offense [18 U.S.C. § 3591(a)];
2. Intentionally killed the victim, Arquimidez Sandoval-Martinez [18 U.S.C.

1 § 3591(a)(2)(A)];

2 3. Intentionally inflicted serious bodily injury that resulted in the death of the victim,
3 Arquimidez Sandoval-Martinez [18 U.S.C. § 3591(a)(2)(B)];

4 4. Intentionally participated in an act, contemplating that the life of a person would be
5 taken and intending that lethal force would be used in connection with a person, other than one of
6 the participants in the offense, and the victim, Arquimidez Sandoval-Martinez, died as a direct
7 result of the act [18 U.S.C. § 3591(a)(2)(C)]; and

8 5. Intentionally and specifically engaged in an act of violence, knowing that the act
9 created a grave risk of death to a person, other than one of the participants in the offense, such that
10 participation in the act constituted a reckless disregard for human life and the victim, Arquimidez
11 Sandoval-Martinez, died as a direct result of the act [18 U.S.C. § 3591(a)(2)(D)].

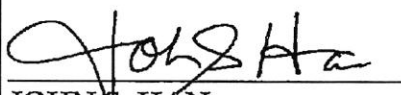
12 **DATED:** This 30th day of April 2019.

13 **A TRUE BILL:**

14
15 /S/
FOREPERSON OF THE GRAND JURY

16
17 Respectfully submitted,

18 NICHOLAS A. TRUTANICH
United States Attorney

19
20 
21 JOHN S. HAN
Trial Attorney
Organized Crime & Gang Section
22 U.S. Department of Justice
23
24